THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BALLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Advance licences are being issued under the advance licensing scheme in terms of the provisions of the export and Import Policy, The number of licences issued during the year 1992-93, 1993-94 & 1994-95 are as under:—

1992-93	— 21949
1993-94	— 33658
1994-95	— 45983

The details of export obligation fulfilled against these licences which are being actively monitored are as under:

	Licences surrendered/ cancelled	E.O. fulfilled by way of redemption/100% documents submitted	Licences being actively monitored
1992-93	2229	17400	2321
1993-94	3087	24165	6406
1994-95	2983	25329	17671
Total:	8299	66894	26398

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export Potential of Virginia Tobacco

4003. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tabacoo Board have not paid adequate attention to the export potential of Virginia Tobacco;

(b) whether it is a fact that sufficient incentives have not been given to the exports and manufacturers to try for increased exports of tobacco;

(c) whether a new emphasis will be given for tobacco exports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Some of the steps taken by Tobacco to enhance production, productivity and quality of tobacco as an incentive to enhance exports are:—

(i) Supply of seeds/seedlings of high yielding and disease resistant varieties of FCV/burley tobacco;

(ii) Pest and disease control through fumigation of nurseries;

(iii) encouraging use of sprinkler irrigation system;

(iv) improving curing and storing facilities;

(v) arranging supply of inputs such as coal (for curing) fertilisers and suckercides, and

(vi) training and exposure of farmers to latest research findings.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Trade Relations with Pakistan and Bangladesh

4004. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to expand trade relations with Pakistan and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, whether any formal proposals have come from these countries in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any agreements have since been signed between India, Pakistan and Bangladesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI